Listing of Claims:

Please rewrite claims 8 and 10 as follows:

- 1-7. (Canceled)
- 8. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing the amount of phosphorus ineow manure, which comprises: A method of maintaining milk production in a dairy cow fed a low phosphorus diet, comprising the steps of:

substituting a 1α-hydroxylated vitamin D compound for some or all of the inorganic phosphorus in a diet of a cow; and replacing some or all inorganic phosphorus in a diet for a dairy cow with a 1α-hydroxylated vitamin D compound; and

feeding said diet to said dairy cow.

- 9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein said diet includes a feed, and said 1α-hydroxylated vitamin D compound is fed as a top dressing on said feed.
- 10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein said effective amount of the 1α-hydroxylated vitamin D compound comprises about 0.1µg/kg to about 100µ/kg of diet.
- 11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein said diet includes a feed, and said feed contains 0% by weight of an inorganic phosphorus supplement.
- 12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein said 1α -hydroxylated vitamin D compound is characterized by the following general structure:

$$X_{10}$$
 X_{2}
 X_{3}
 X_{4}
 X_{5}
 X_{2}

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where X_1 may be hydrogen or a hydroxy-protecting group, X_2 may be hydroxy, or protected hydroxy, X_3 may be hydrogen or methyl, X_4 and X_5 each represent hydrogen or taken together X_4 and X_5 represent a methylene group, and where Z is selected from Y, -OY, $-CH_2OY$, $-C\equiv CY$ and -CH=CHY, where the double bond may have the cis or trans stereochemical configuration, and where Y is selected from hydrogen, methyl, $-CR_5O$ and a radical of the structure:

$$-(CH_2)_m$$
 C $-(CH_2)_n$ $-C$ $-R^5$ R^4

where m and n, independently, represent integers from 0 to 5, where R^1 is selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, protected-hydroxy, fluoro, trifluoromethyl, and $C_{1.5}$ -alkyl, which may be straight chain or branched and, optionally, bear a hydroxy or protected-hydroxy substituent, and where each of R^2 , R^3 and R^4 , independently, is selected from hydrogen, fluoro, trifluoromethyl and $C_{1.5}$ alkyl, which may be straight-chain or branched, and optionally bear a hydroxy or protected-hydroxy substituent, and where R^1 and R^2 , taken together, represent an oxo group, or an alkylidene group, $=CR_2R_3$, or the group $-(CH_2)_p$, where p is an integer from 2 to 5, and where R^3 and R^4 , taken together, represent an oxo group, or the group $-(CH_2)_q$ -, where q is an integer from 2 to 5, and where R^5 represents hydrogen, hydroxy, protected-hydroxy, or $C_{1.5}$ alkyl.

- 13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the vitamin D compound is 1α -hydroxyvitamin D₃.
- 14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the vitamin D compound is $1\alpha,25$ -dhydroxyvitamin D₃.